

The new course of Acta Bio Medica

With this issue Acta Bio Medica (ABM), the official Journal of the Society of Medicine and Natural Sciences of Parma, changes graphics and publisher. The journal has not renewed either its cover or its size for several years and so far it has never known a true publisher. The time was ripe for a change.

The colour of the ABM cover remains red but a few slight changes have been introduced without affecting original graphics, traditionally severe. The new publisher is *Casa editrice Mattioli 1885*, an experienced company editing several medical journals in Italy. On behalf of the editorial board of ABM, I would like to convey our appreciation to the General Manager of *Tecnografica s.n.c Parma* for the excellent work in editing ABM that has been accomplished up to now.

The ABM new course is fully supported by the Executive board of the Society of Medicine and Natural Sciences of Parma and is part of the programme for the revival of the Journal. After the resolution of 2002 to consider for publication only those articles written in English, the process of development of ABM today adds three further steps.

First, the editorial board of the ABM has been renewed and now includes several colleagues from Parma and outside Parma who enthusiastically accepted to be members of the board. Second, starting with this issue, a review article written by a guest Author will be published regularly in the Journal. Third, a specific section has been introduced to report a comprehensive summary of the conferences supported by the Society of Medicine and Natural Sciences of Parma in order to give more publicity to these excellent meetings.

ABM circulation will be increased substantially. Several medical libraries in Italy and Europe will re-

ceive the Journal, thanks to a large exchange collaboration programme of the new Publisher. All members of the Medical Faculty of the University and physicians of the Hospital of Parma as well as those working in the Hospitals close to Parma will receive a free copy of ABM.

The *raison d'être* of a scientific journal is to play an active role within the scientific community. ABM is proud to offer the Parmesan Scientific Community a Journal indexed by ISI and included in Medline. This advantage over several qualified Italian journals is worth consideration and must be safeguarded and reinforced. As far as we know, the Medical Faculty of Parma is the only Faculty in Italy to have this opportunity. It would be a regrettable mistake to miss it. A convinced and concerted effort by all Faculty members to support ABM and to promote its diffusion, also abroad, is welcome.

This appeal falls during an historical period for the Society of Medicine and Natural Sciences of Parma which will be one century old in 2006, and also its Journal. As Raffaele Viridis points out in this publication, the first issue of the official Journal of the Society, originally called *Il Giornale della Società Medico-chirurgica di Parma*, was published about one century ago (1806) and had as its founders and collaborators Clinicians and Surgeons who entered history.

We must uphold and improve the inheritance of these famous colleagues with a great sense of responsibility and spirit of enterprise.

Maurizio Vanelli
Editor in Chief